

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Clarence M. Kelley
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: May 7, 1976

FROM : David C. Stephenson
Deputy Pardon Attorney

SUBJECT: Otto Kerner, Jr.
Applicant for pardon

CG-9

Enclosed is a copy of a petition for pardon of the subject. I would appreciate your authorizing the usual clemency investigation and sending two copies of the report to this office. Please return the enclosures when the investigation has been completed.

It should be noted that although Mr. Kerner would not be eligible to apply for pardon at this time under the usual rules requiring a five year waiting period following release from prison, the Deputy Attorney General has waived this requirement in Mr. Kerner's case because of compelling evidence that he is suffering from a terminal illness. Therefore, the Deputy Attorney General has concluded that Mr. Kerner is entitled to early consideration of his petition for pardon. Although expedited consideration of the case is appropriate, this should not interfere with the complete and thorough inquiry normally conducted by the Bureau.

We have attached to the petition a copy of a letter dated April 8, 1976 from Dr. L. L. Brown and three other physicians in Chicago describing the nature of Mr. Kerner's illness. We suggest that these doctors be interviewed with respect to his present condition.

Since Mr. Kerner is still on parole the United States Probation Officer for the Northern District of Illinois also should be interviewed.

Please note that this is a tax case and therefore we will require your assistance for IRS information.

REC-16

18291

CH 40

MCT-30

20 MAY 11 1976



5010-110

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

73-HQ-18291-1, FDPS page 4

April 8, 1976

SEYMOUR & PATTON

Mr. Thomas E. Patton
Seymour & Patton
1225 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20036

RE: OTTO KERNER

Dear Mr. Patton:

In February, 1975, while a prisoner at Lexington, Kentucky, Mr. Kerner was found to have a cancer of the upper lobe of his right lung. A right thoracotomy with removal of the right upper lobe of the lung was performed by Dr. Arthur T. Haebich on March 11, 1975 at Illinois Masonic Medical Center and the pathology was reported as a squamous cell carcinoma with no evidence of tumor in the mediastinal nodes.

Mr. Kerner made an uneventful recovery from the surgery and did well until December, 1975, when he suddenly developed pain in his chest, cough and shortness of breath. X-rays of the chest and bone scan studies revealed widespread metastatic deposits of cancer in both lungs and the skeletal system. He was then treated with cobalt therapy by Dr. K. E. Chung, radiation oncologist, and with chemotherapy by Dr. Ira J. Piel, medical oncologist.

Mr. Kerner is now in an extremely weakened condition following the cobalt and chemotherapy. He is coughing up blood, short of breath on slightest exertion such as walking across a room, and has lost 21 lbs. in the past three months.

Mr. Kerner has maintained an outward appearance of courage and equanimity despite all of his physical miseries. Only the few people in close contact with him are aware of the profound unrest and turmoil which trouble him. He is a proud man who has placed his reputation above all else and with the emotional distress caused by his federal conviction cannot seem to find the peace of mind necessary to make his final days tolerable.

It is impossible to predict at any point in time what the future behavior of a malignant tumor will be. In general, carcinoma of the lung which has metastasized carries an exceptionally poor prognosis. The plan in the near future is to utilize another course of chemotherapy in an attempt to retard the growth of Mr. Kerner's cancer. There is absolutely no hope of completely eliminating or permanently retarding the disease, so that the best to be expected is to decrease his symptoms and prolong his life.

73-HQ-18291-2, FDPS pages 8-10

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April 8, 1976

Medically we can only strive to lighten his physical miseries. To lighten his more profound burden, ease his mental distress and depression and make his remaining time less miserable can only be achieved through reversal of his conviction, thus removing the onus of the blot upon his reputation. Such a humanitarian expression of kindness and generosity would offer Mr. Kerner the mental and spiritual peace he so desperately seeks and needs to face the end of his life with the same dignity with which he lived.

Very truly yours,

L L Braun M.D.

L. L. BRAUN, M.D.
P. Chairman, Department of
Internal Medicine

Arthur T. Haebich, M.D.

ARTHUR T. HAEBICH, M.D.
Chairman, Thoracic Surgery

K. E. Chung, M.D.

K. E. CHUNG, M.D.
Chairman, Radiation Oncology

Ira J. Piel

IRA J. PIEL, M.D.
Chairman, Medical Oncology

eh

Date

Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20224

Dear Sir:

You are requested and authorized to furnish the Pardon Attorney, United States Department of Justice, with tax information in your files relating to my income tax returns for the year (s) of my tax violation, , and all subsequent years in connection with my pending petition for a presidential pardon.

Very truly yours,

Signature of taxpayer

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Social Security Number

5.1 PETITION FOR PARDON AFTER COMPLETION OF SENTENCE

(Type or Print - This form may be modified for forfeiture of Veterans benefits or military cases)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

66 PETITIONER, OTTO KERNER, JR.
Name: First Middle Last
 Social Security No. [REDACTED], is a citizen of U.S.A., born on August 15, 19 08
Country
 and resides at 233 East Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611
No. Street City State Zip Code

PETITIONER was convicted on a plea of not guilty in the United States
guilty, not guilty or nolo contendere
 District Court for the Northern District of Illinois at Chicago
Eastern, Western, etc. State City
 of the crime of conspiracy, mail fraud, false declarations and tax
Describe specifically and accurately.
evasion arising out of stock purchase while Governor,
 and was sentenced on April 20, 1973, to imprisonment for 3 years
imprisonment, probation length of service
 and/or to pay a fine of \$ 20,000.

If conviction was appealed, complete the following paragraph:

PETITIONER appealed to the United States Court of Appeals; where the judgment was affirmed on February 19,
19 74. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court denied a
was, was not granted, denied
 petition for a writ of certiorari on June 17 - , 19 74. If certiorari was granted, the judgment was affirmed on
 , 19 .

PETITIONER began the service of his sentence on July 28, 19 74; was released on March 7,
19 75 from Lexington and was finally discharged by expiration of sentence on ,
Federal Institution
19 . The fine has been paid in full. If not paid, explain why.
has, has not

PETITIONER was 56 years of age when the crime was committed, and his prior and subsequent arrest record is as
 follows: (List every arrest by local, state or Federal authorities, whether resulting in a conviction or not, giving date, disposition
 of case and name and location of court.) None

PETITIONER is widowed is, is not married, has 2 children, aged 5-5-67 and lives with and supports his family to the best of his ability. (If divorced or not living with or supporting family, explain.)

PETITIONER is employed by Lewis University,
at Chicago, Illinois as part-time consultant
No. Street City State Position
and has been so employed since June, 1975 and his prior employments since conviction follows:

(List names and addresses of employers and dates of each employment.)

PETITIONER submits his personal oath and three character references, promises to obey the laws of, and to be loyal to, the United States, and respectfully prays that he be granted a pardon for the following reasons:

See accompanying Memorandum in Support of Petition.

SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER

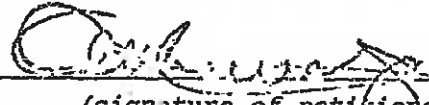
DOJ-1573-66

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

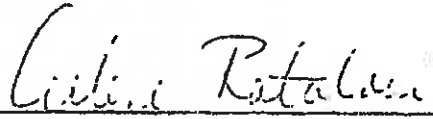
PERSONAL OATH

I, OTTO KERNER, JR., in petitioning the
(print or type petitioner's name)

President of the United States for pardon, do solemnly swear that I will be
law abiding and will support and defend the Constitution of the United States
against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and that I take this obligation
freely and without any mental reservation whatsoever, So Help Me God.


(signature of petitioner)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of October, 19 75.


Notary Public

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
OF PETITION OF OTTO KERNER, JR.
FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

October 10, 1975

Respectfully submitted by:

Otto Kerner, Jr.
233 East Walton Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

SEYMOUR & PATTON
1225 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036
Attorneys for Petitioner

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
OF PETITION OF OTTO KERNER, JR.
FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

Otto Kerner, Jr., respectfully prays that he receive executive clemency pursuant to Article 2, Section 1, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, and 28 C.F.R. §1.1 et seq.

I.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE PETITION

A. Introductory Statement

Forty years of public service must count greatly in the scales when balancing the crime for which Otto Kerner stands convicted against the appropriateness of executive clemency. As an Army major general, United States Attorney, county judge, Governor of Illinois and United States Circuit Judge, Kerner obtained and administered positions of public trust ably. As presidentially-appointed chairman of a significant national commission, he acquitted himself with ability and distinction. He has received the approval and confidence of five Presidents by appointments, of the United States Senate by confirmation and of millions of voters on four occasions.

On the surface, and as a general principle, one who enjoys high public trust and is found guilty of a crime is deemed the more guilty because of the advantages he enjoyed and the scope of the trust which he abused. This principle is altogether

ingrained in our society today because of the recent wave of public breaches of trust. But it would be a tragedy indeed to our concepts of clemency if Kerner's petition is prejudiced by this prevailing principle rather than thoroughly and extensively considered on its own merits. Kerner's public and private life was truly exemplary and unblemished except for his conviction of crimes arising from his purchase of stock in a racing enterprise.

Kerner is 67 years old. He has paid an extremely high price indeed as a result of the jury's verdict. He resigned his lifetime judicial appointment to the seat formerly held by his father, a proud post for a justifiably proud man. He served seven months in prison while in ill health. The fees, fines and tax deficiencies have depleted his resources. He is presently recuperating from cancer surgery. His highly publicized conviction and confinement have already served whatever deterrent impact is possible. A pardon would in no way restore his position or his resources. A pardon for Otto Kerner would, however, be a most appropriate recognition by his country of his decades of acknowledged good service to society. It is truly fitting and just that his country extend to him in his twilight years the same measure of compassion which he always himself displayed to the disadvantaged in society. A presidential pardon for Otto Kerner, Jr., is supported by the compelling reason that Kerner's lifetime devotion to high public and private causes should not go for naught, should not go unrecognized and should not be unfairly marred by history.

A brief examination of Kerner's history of contributions to society demonstrates that a pardon is surely a small expression of gratitude in return for what he has given.

B. Kerner's Public Service

Except for his purchase of an option to buy stock in Chicago Thoroughbred Enterprises, Inc., in November, 1962, while Governor of Illinois, Kerner's public service was unblemished and was marked by the highest standards of honesty.

In 1934, Kerner joined the Illinois National Guard as a private at a time when military service was hardly respectable, and he spent years organizing the Guard, resulting in its preparedness at the outbreak of World War II. During the war, Kerner was an artillery officer in several theatres. He rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Army and later was commander of the Illinois National Guard, from which he retired in 1954 with the reserve rank of major general.

For seven years between 1947 and 1954, Kerner served as United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. He was first appointed by President Truman and served for one and one-half years under the administration of President Eisenhower. His service in that post was exemplary. He combined strong law enforcement with an understanding of human rights.

From 1954 to 1960, Kerner served as The County Judge for Cook County, Illinois. This was a judgeship with special jurisdiction, including executive and administrative responsibilities -- mental health, adoptions and appointment of members of

many local municipal bodies. In the post, Kerner performed valuable reforms in the fields of mental health, adoption and election laws. Penal reform became one of his main areas of concern as a member and as a vice-president of The John Howard Association. He liberalized and improved adoption procedures. In fact, when Kerner later became governor, he concentrated on improvements in the human areas where reforms were needed in his opinion as a result of his experience as County Judge.

Between January, 1961, and May, 1968, Kerner served two terms as Illinois Governor. Setting aside for the moment his racing stock purchase, the record of Kerner's vigorous, progressive and honest leadership is solid and demonstrable. At the beginning of his governorship, Kerner first was required to solve Illinois' desperate fiscal plight. He cracked down on sales tax cheaters. He found new sources of revenue without imposing taxes. He developed trade, commerce and employment. He succeeded in putting Illinois' fiscal house in order.

Kerner's principal achievements as Governor were in the fields of human resources: education, housing, employment and health care. Many reforms were achieved by Kerner. Criminal law reform, prison reform, mental health reform, adoption reform were achieved although he enjoyed a legislature of his own party in only one session in eight years.

Kerner promoted Illinois with pride. He promoted the State's Civil War Centennial. He promoted restoration of historic sites such as Lincoln's home. He supervised Illinois' Sesquicentennial and he sent a successful exhibit to the World's Fair. He

traveled for Illinois, including a successful trade mission to the Far East and Europe, and increased the balance of payments favorable to the U. S. His administration was marked by many other successes.

Between August, 1967, and March, 1968, Governor Kerner served as chairman of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. For months, he directed hearings and studies on the causes of urban rioting and disorder. The report of his commission, issued March 1, 1968, landed like a bombshell. The report, which bore Kerner's personal mark, angered and frustrated many but it pointed the way with concrete suggestions to an elimination of racial violence. The report gained for Kerner both respect and unpopularity. But his report, more than any other similar study of those riotous times, gave the country specific, concrete and proven remedies for our urban ills. Responsible force and new techniques were advanced, to replace blind violent overreaction. It is most interesting to observe that our country has not yet again seen a fiery summer of urban unrest like the 1967 street wars. If Otto Kerner contributed in even a small measure to urban peace -- and he did so in large measure -- then his country owes him the gratitude which only a pardon can sufficiently express.

From May, 1968, to July, 1974, Kerner was United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. (From December, 1971, to July, 1974, Kerner placed himself on leave of absence as a result of his indictment, trial and conviction. He resigned after exhausting his judicial remedies.) No one has ever seriously even questioned Kerner's honest, dedicated and thorough service as a federal judge.

C. Kerner's Private Contributions to Society

Kerner always adhered to a tradition of service in the private as well as the public field, believing that one of advantaged position had a special duty to contribute. For decades Kerner has been active in several such endeavors. His chief love has always been Boy Scout work. As a Chicagoan, Kerner worked tirelessly to develop scouting in lower-income neighborhoods. He pioneered the entrance of scouting into urban "central city" communities, believing that such youthful training was part of the answer to urban malaise. Another principal activity has been the John Howard Society, devoted to penal reform and prisoner rehabilitation. He has been active in that field since the 1940's. Seldom did Otto Kerner refuse a request for charitable service. He always enjoyed and succeeded in charitable fund raising activities. He has lent his time and good offices to countless such endeavors.

D. The Nature of the Offenses

In the context of Kerner's acknowledged years of honest service, how are we to reconcile the serious crimes of which he was convicted? This is not an attempt to reargue the jury's verdict. In our legal system, that verdict is final. Yet, the nature of these offenses is such that a close scrutiny of their foundation is necessary. How can forty years of honest service be consistent with the conviction? The answer, we submit, lies in the moral nature of the case against Kerner. The case against Kerner posited a certain sense of political morality, and in

the final analysis the jury was asked whether they approved of this high standard and, if so, whether Kerner lived up to it by investing in a company regulated by an Illinois state agency. The prosecuting attorney's standard of political morality was correct, but it was exceedingly high. Although no Illinois state law or regulation prevented the Governor from buying stock in an enterprise regulated by an independent state agency, there is undeniably a potential conflict of interest. Kerner himself recognized this potential when in 1968 he promulgated a code of executive department ethics. When he sold his racing stock in 1968, he reported it to the IRS as a capital gain and paid taxes on the gain. But he made a profit, and the proposition of a governor making a profit in a regulated company was abhorrent to those with exceedingly high political mores. Kerner does not excuse his conduct; he recognizes it as being in conflict with the highest standards of government service. But the fact remains that Kerner has been subjected to the full penalty for his transgression of ideal standards of political morality.

A study of the transcript of Kerner's trial will, we believe, reveal that the essential dispute was a moral one involving proprieties, rather than venality or corruption in its usual sense. In this sense only does Kerner ask that his conviction be reviewed. Although he has always maintained his innocence of wilful criminal misconduct, and continues to do so, he acknowledges his failure on one occasion to be sufficiently sensitive to the proper standards of political morality.

E. Kerner's Present Situation

Kerner, at age 67, is in permanent retirement from his former profession of public service. Since his release from prison in March, 1975, he has devoted most of his time to recovering his health, recuperating from major surgery and getting his personal and family life in order. He has recently begun devoting some time to worthwhile activities. He is a part-time lecturer at Lewis University in Chicago. He continues his affiliation with several civic and charitable groups. He intends to devote his remaining years as actively as possible to constructive endeavors.

The concept of "rehabilitation" is meaningless in Kerner's case. There is no question but that he will at all times be not merely a law-abiding citizen, but an actively useful citizen. He will not run for public office; a pardon is not necessary to his livelihood, although it would surely make his livelihood easier. A pardon for Otto Kerner, then, will not endanger the commonweal, will not denigrate the seriousness of the offenses for which he was convicted, and will not unjustly enhance his station. A pardon, rather, will be a compassionate and magnanimous gesture of appreciation to a man who worked for the good of others. We venture to say also that a pardon will be met, not with any resentment against persons in high places, but rather with the measure of sympathy and compassion for which the American people are known.

II.

REASONS FOR WAIVING THE USUAL TIME PERIOD

Regulation 1.3 of the Rules Governing Petitions for Executive Clemency provides that, in Kerner's case, a five-year period subsequent to release is "usually required." This regulation is on its face a permissive guide and not mandatory. It could not be mandatory because a pardon is ultimately an unreviewable act of presidential grace under his constitutional power. Nevertheless, there are ordinarily sound reasons why the waiting period is a salutary general guideline.

There are compelling reasons why Kerner's petition should be favorably received now. At age 67, Kerner is in substandard health. Aside from the array of normal afflictions suffered by a man of his age, Kerner has several serious health problems. He has recently suffered a malignant cancer of the lung and has undergone major surgery which left him in a weakened condition. He has a chronic heart condition and has suffered coronary incidents of moderate severity. He has a mild diabetic-arteriosclerotic condition. In short, his life expectancy is less than average. This is not an alarmist overstatement; Kerner may well enjoy many years of life. But he may well not.

A pardon for Otto Kerner, if it is to be granted, should be granted now, while he is able to enjoy the restoration of his good name. Five years is a precious and precarious commodity to Otto Kerner. The "usual" waiting period might avail him nothing, making a pardon a useless gesture. What

might be "usual" in other situations cannot in fairness be applicable to Kerner, a 67 year-old retired man with major health problems. Pardon is an act of compassion, and if compassion is due to Kerner, then it is due now!

III.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THIS PETITION

To aid in the investigation of this petition, the following information can be furnished:

1. The trial transcript and briefs: Included in the transcript are the testimony of 12 prominent character witnesses.
2. Medical reports.
3. Thousands of petitions from Illinois citizens which were received unsolicited by Kerner.
4. The reports of probation officers in the Northern District of Illinois.
5. The names of additional character affiants.
6. Kerner's own interview and oral information therefrom.
7. Personnel reports from federal and state authorities.
8. Other information as may be deemed appropriate.

IV.

CONCLUSION

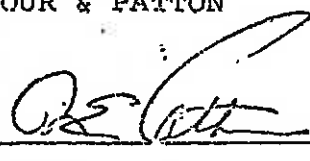
The only real and lasting asset of Otto Kerner's has been his good name, reputation and honor. Deprived of that

asset, Kerner's real and solid contributions to society will have counted for little. He asks only a small gesture toward restoring the good name which he developed by hard and long service to his country.

Respectfully submitted,

OTTO KERNER, JR.

SEYMOUR & PATTON

By: 

1225 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036
(202) 452-1711

Attorneys for Otto Kerner, Jr.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHARACTER AFFIDAVIT
ON BEHALF OF

OTTO KENCER, Jr.,
(print or type name of petitioner)

In support of the application of the above petitioner to the President of the United States for pardon, I, Richard Paul Grabel, D. D.,
(print or type name of affiant)

residing at 1248 South Grand Avenue W., Springfield, Ill., 62704,
No. Street City State Zip Code

whose occupation is Pastor Emeritus, First Presbyterian Church,

certify that I have personally known the petitioner for 15 years. Except

as otherwise indicated below, he has conducted himself, since his conviction,

in a moral and law-abiding manner. My knowledge of petitioner's reputation,

conduct and activities, including whether he has been arrested or had any

other trouble with public authorities and has been steadily employed, is as

follows: Otto Kencar, Governor of Illinois and benefactor to our

Springfield community and state, Elder of my church, elected to

the highest honors our community can give by the Abraham Lincoln

Association and the ILL OF BLD YEM award (ONLY Governor ever to

be so honored) has been, since his release from prison, twice

under surgery. At this point he is far from robust. Our city
loves him and prays for his recovery from cancer of the lung.

We gave a public banquet in his honor on September 3rd which was
sold out in our largest facility within days! Bankers, lawyers,
judges, the learned professions came to honor him. Otto Kencar is a
GREAT MAN! From God he can live a long and useful life!

I do solemnly swear that the foregoing information is true and correct

to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Richard Paul Grabel
(signature of affiant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of September, 1975.

Debbie Gortman
Notary Public.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHARACTER AFFIDAVIT
ON BEHALF OF

OTTO KERNER
(print or type name of petitioner)

In support of the application of the above petitioner to the President of the United States for pardon, I, JAMES W. MONTGOMERY,
(print or type name of affiant)
residing at 1320 N. STATE ST. CHICAGO, ILL. 60610,
No. Street City State Zip Code

whose occupation is BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CHICAGO
certify that I have personally known the petitioner for 13 years. Except as otherwise indicated below, he has conducted himself, since his conviction, in a moral and law-abiding manner. My knowledge of petitioner's reputation, conduct and activities, including whether he has been arrested or had any other trouble with public authorities and has been steadily employed, is as follows: IN ALL THE YEARS IN WHICH I HAVE KNOWN AND WORKED WITH OTTO KERNER I HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE A MAN OF INTEGRITY, COMPASSION AND PROFOUND DEDICATION TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST. I CAN ATTEST, WITHOUT RESERVATION, TO HIS GOOD CHARACTER

I do solemnly swear that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

James W. Montgomery
(signature of affiant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of August, 1972.

Matthew C. Haldane
Notary Public.
Commission Expires Dec. 31, 1973

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CHARACTER AFFIDAVIT
ON BEHALF OF

Otto Kerner
(print or type name of petitioner)

In support of the application of the above petitioner to the President of the United States for pardon, I, William Harrison Fetridge,
(print or type name of affiant)

residing at 2430 N. Lake View Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614
No. Street City State Zip Code

whose occupation is President and Chief Executive Officer, The Dartnell Corporation

certify that I have personally known the petitioner for 20 years. Except as otherwise indicated below, he has conducted himself, since his conviction, in a moral and law-abiding manner. My knowledge of petitioner's reputation, conduct and activities, including whether he has been arrested or had any other trouble with public authorities and has been steadily employed, is as follows: I consider Otto Kerner one of the finest gentlemen I have ever known.

He is thoughtful and a kindly man and all the people I know, no matter what their political hue, honor and respect him. If it is true that he broke some law, I can only consider it an accident for such an incident is completely out of character for Otto Kerner. I trust, therefore, that a full pardon be granted this man. He will serve our country in the future as in the past quietly, effectively.

(SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT)

I do solemnly swear that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Wm Harrison Fetridge
(signature of affiant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of October, 1975.

[Signature]
Notary Public.

THE DARTNELL CORPORATION

4660 RAVENSWOOD AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60640

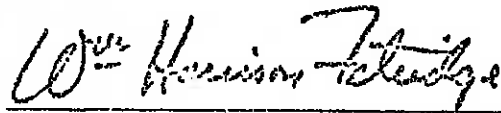
WM. HARRISON FETRIDGE
PRESIDENT

October 1, 1975

I should like to add a postscript to my remarks on the attached form.

There is a side to Otto's life that has never been publicized. I refer to his gentleness and kindness to his wife who had a very serious drinking problem. It was a difficult situation for a public man but it was one to which he never gave voice. He treated her with dignity at all times. He was almost saintly in this situation, ~~and which would have broken a lesser man.~~

One more thing: Otto Kerner is, I believe, the only governor to be awarded Boy Scouting's Silver Buffalo award "for outstanding service to boyhood." As a National Vice President of the Boy Scouts of America, I can assure one and all that Otto Kerner merited this award. I can recall no governor who gave as much time and effort to building Scouting and it is incredible to me that anyone so dedicated to American boyhood is not a very decent person and a very good citizen.



Wm. Harrison Fetridge